

R E M A R K S

Base claim 1 has been amended to emphasize:

d) said overhanging portions projecting with curvatures in opposite directions, and away from each other and with convexity toward said intermediate spacing whereby said intermediate spacing between the guards has venturi shape in a direction away from the plate.

See in this regard venturi shape spacing 14 between 12a and 13a, i.e. the convex surfaces facing intermediate spacing 14. Unusual structure, functions and results include configuring of the two guards to flex relatively toward each other to sidewardly and positively grip the user's middle finger, preventing slippage and possible cutting of the user's fingers. See the text at pages 6 and 7. See also enhanced adjustability of finger spaces 16 and 17, as referenced at page 7, lines 10-14. Middle finger side pressure against curved structure 12a and 13a, enhances second and fourth finger gripping in spaces 16 and 17, by 12 and 13.

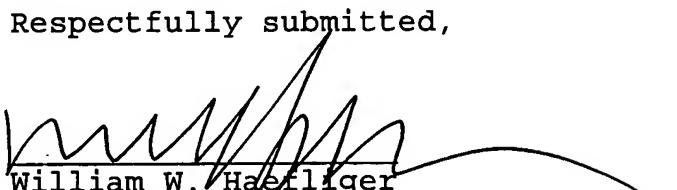
None of the above is taught, or suggested, or structurally or functionally motivated by the cited art, including Deglon, Romanov, or other art. In Deglon, 3, 11

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and 12 form a generally annular or circular tunnel, (having a diameter (page 3, line 17) without any suggestion of venturi shape, with convexity toward the intermediate space. See description at page 3 line 9, referring to an "L'anneau de retenue", i.e. an annulus. Romanov's device, as seen in his Figs. 4-11, is closely similar to Deglon's with a central tunnel (cylindrical) style finger holder as at 170. Venturi shape is not possibly suggested, and motivation to provide same and its functioning is clearly lacking. Remaining art is even less pertinent.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance, are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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